

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

2 INTRODUCED BY JUNEAU, BALLANTYNE, BERGREN, BLACK, CALLAHAN, E. CLARK, COBB,  
3 DICKENSON, FRANKLIN, GALVIN-HALCRO, GOLIE, HANSEN, KITZENBERG, LEHMAN, MCKENNEY,  
4 MUSGROVE, PARKER, RIPLEY, ROUSH, B. RYAN, D. RYAN, SCHMIDT, TESTER, TROPILA, WILSON,  
5 WITT, MANGAN  
6

7 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
8 MONTANA TO SUPPORT THE GRASSROOTS EFFORTS OF THE NORTHCENTRAL MONTANA  
9 COMMUNITY VENTURES PROJECT TO DETERMINE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE POVERTY IN  
10 NORTHCENTRAL MONTANA AND TO SUPPORT THE NORTHCENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY  
11 VENTURES PROJECT IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDING FROM THE NORTHWEST AREA  
12 FOUNDATION.

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14 WHEREAS, an 11-county area of northcentral Montana is one of four finalists competing in eight states  
15 for funding from the Northwest Area Foundation for a multiyear, intensive project to reduce poverty; and

16 WHEREAS, individuals, organizations, and units of local governments in Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton,  
17 Cascade, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Chouteau, and Judith Basin Counties, along with tribal governments of  
18 the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy, and Little Shell Band of Chippewa, have worked together under the  
19 umbrella of the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project for more than a year to cooperatively identify  
20 the root causes of poverty and to define poverty as it exists in northcentral Montana; and

21 WHEREAS, the Indian communities of northcentral Montana have been an integral component in the  
22 project planning; and

23 WHEREAS, hundreds of Montana citizens throughout northcentral Montana have participated in a  
24 dynamic planning process, a process through which the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project  
25 sought to ensure broad and diverse participation, including dialogues with individuals and families living in  
26 poverty; and

27 WHEREAS, the 11-county northcentral Montana area already has received a generous contribution of  
28 \$600,000 from the Northwest Area Foundation to assist in the design stage of a final plan to identify strategies  
29 for reducing poverty in northcentral Montana; and

30 WHEREAS, the Northwest Area Foundation has identified three communities in other states in addition

1 to the 11-county area in northcentral Montana as potential recipients of funding in its grassroots,  
2 community-based Community Ventures Program but will provide final funding to only one or two areas; and

3 WHEREAS, the reduction of poverty is an important public policy goal of the State of Montana; and

4 WHEREAS, if this project application is successful, the 11 counties in northcentral Montana will be  
5 strengthened in their efforts to reduce poverty, thus strengthening all of Montana.

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7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
8 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 That the Montana Legislature formally support the application of the Northcentral Montana Community  
10 Ventures Project to the Northwest Area Foundation for development and implementation of a strategic, long-term  
11 plan to assist in reducing rates of poverty in an 11-county area of northcentral Montana.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this joint resolution to the  
13 Northwest Area Foundation, to the Northcentral Montana Community Ventures Project, and to the tribal  
14 governments of the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, and Rocky Boy Reservations and the Little Shell Band of Chippewa.

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